

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/728,848

Examiner

Terry L. Englund

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amdt (Dec 20, 2005) and Interviews (Feb 28 & Mar 3, 2006).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, and 5-12 (now renumbered as 1-11, respectively for printing purposes).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

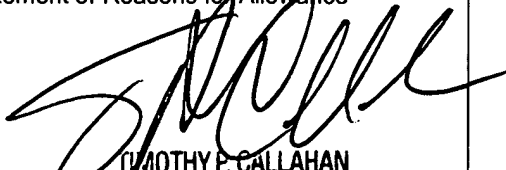
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 03032006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with the applicants' representative Stephen D. Huang (Reg. No. 45,304) on Mar 3, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 3, line 3: changed "a signal" to --the external signal--;

line 4: changed "the signal" to --the external signal--;

Claim 8, line 4: added --second-- prior to "predetermined"; and

line 6: added --second-- prior to "predetermined".

The four changes to the two claims described above address/correct inadvertent type oversights by the examiner. The "signal" being received from an address pad, and then output into the tuning unit or an address decoder, as recited within claim 3, needed to be more clearly associated to one of the signals (i.e. test mode, external, and stored) that are received by the tuning unit as recited within claim 1. Otherwise, it would appear the tuning unit could receive four different types of signals, instead of three. Claim 8 was amended to distinguish its "predetermined control signal" from the "predetermined control signal" recited within claim 6. None of these changes affect the scope of the claim. They merely clarify the limitations, which were previously understood by the examiner, thus minimizing possible confusion with their wording.

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

The amendment submitted on Dec 20, 2005 was reviewed and considered with the following results:

Amended claim 3 overcame its objection described in the previous Office Action, which has now been withdrawn. However, when the claim was reconsidered, it was noted there could be a possible problem with respect to the claim 3 phrases “a signal” and “the signal”, and the signals received by the tuning unit cited in claim 1. This concern was addressed/corrected by the Examiner’s Amendment described above.

Amended claim 1 overcame the rejections of claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), with respect to Kim et al. Those rejections have been withdrawn because Kim et al. does not show or disclose the multiplexer as now recited within claim 1. This multiplexer limitation came from claim 4, which had been identified as allowable material in the previous Office Action. Since claim 1 now includes that limitation, claim 4 has been cancelled. [Note: The cancellation of claim 4, and amended claims 1 and 3 also overcame the objection of claim 3 being dependent on a rejected base claim.]

When all the active claims were reconsidered, another possible problem was noted within claim 8 with respect to its “predetermined control signal” since claim 6 cites a “predetermined control signal.” Therefore, this concern was also addressed/corrected by the Examiner’s Amendment described above.

There is no known objection or rejection remaining within the present application.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

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None of the prior art references reviewed and considered shows or discloses an internal voltage generator as recited within independent claims 1 and 5. More specifically, none of the references clearly shows or discloses: 1) a multiplexer for selectively outputting output signals in response to a test mode signal as recited within independent claim 1 (upon which claims 2-3 depend), wherein the tuning unit also receives the same test mode signal; or 2) the specific combination of first/second test mode blocks, and data output unit as recited within claim 5 (upon which claims 6-12 depend), wherein the first/second test mode blocks, and the data output unit all receive the test mode signal. Since there is no motivation to modify or combine any prior art reference(s) to ensure all the recited limitations within either independent claim are met, the claims are deemed patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Claims 1-3, and 5-12 are allowed, and have been renumbered as claims 1-11, respectively for printing purposes. The renumbering takes into account the cancellation of claim 4.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication, or previous communications, from the examiner should be directed to Terry L. Englund whose telephone number is (571) 272-1743. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (571) 272-1740.

The new central official fax number is (571) 273-8300.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TLE

Terry L. Englund

3 March 2006